TOP OF THE HILL

SPECIAL ELECTION '96 ISSUE

Volume 1, Number 4 | MBA Junior School | March 1996

Lamar's Son on "What Could Have Been"

by Roddy Story, Josh Ritter, Taylor Sutherland, Andy Andrews and Gabe Roth

Top of the Hill recently interviewed MBA Tenth Grader Will Alexander, the son of former presidential candidate Lamar Alexander. Since the interview, Lamar has dropped out of the race. He was unable to win any primaries and had a poor showing in southern states, where he hoped to win a few primaries.

We asked Will how he felt about his father dropping out of the race.

"I was upset because I was behind him all the way. I was also releived since the pressure is off of him and off of me. I can lead a normal life now with my parents home. I liked working for him, and I am proud of him. I learned a lot about people around the country.

"The whole thing came down to how he could't get his message across in the bigger states as well as Dole could and did."

Will did enjoy campaigning with his father, especially in New Hampshirehe where the Republican primaries got under way. Although Lamar was still trying to get people to know him, he finished a strong third. Will described his experience in New Hampshire as follows:

"There was a big snowstorm that Friday, so I got there in the afternoon and sat around. We [then] went to 'rap-up parties,' basically a rally at someone's house with 80 or 90 people where you give a 10 to 15 minute speech to get everyone fired up about the campaign."

"The next day," he continues, "we went to spots that have more to do with press than actual voters. For instance, we went to Dunkin' Donuts where there were maybe two people that were interested in seeing him, but about 30 guys came from the press. That is mainly what you do the last two days [before the primary] because you aren't going to swing many votes, so what you mainly want to get is attention."

Lamar's presidential campaign was a lot different than when he ran for governor. We asked Will if he could compare the gubernatorial campaigns to the one he was in.

"Basically, my father has been in three elections so far, but this is the first I remember. He ran for governor three times. He lost the first time, then he won his first and second terms. The last time he ran, though, was 1982, so I was too young to remember."

Our staff then wondered how Will's life was affected by the campaign.

"It had not really changed. He has been campaigning ever since [former President George] Bush lost, and people have known that it is what he is going to do. I've had the same friends since, and so the only people who have treated me differently are the people I meet now."

We attempted to uncover the secret of how the now famous investment deals would have changed his campaign.

"I honestly don't know how my father's investments worked. He hasn't told me, but all of it was cleared by a group of 12 senators who approved him to be Secretary of Education."

Next he was asked what he planned to do if his father had stayed in the race and been elected president.

"I would have lived with my godparents because I wouldn't have wanted to live in the White House...not for my senior year! I want to stay at MBA. I've had fun going around in Iowa and New Hampshire, but I didn't want to be a political kid."

What are your personal views on the other presidential candidates?

"Buchanan is pretty right wing...He wouldn't be the best for the [Republican] Party. Bob Dole was struggling, but he has endorsements from so many people...I think that President Clinton would destroy him [in the election]...It really comes down to 'who can beat Clinton' and Lamar would have had the best chance in that respect."

Certainly, we at MBA would have been proud to have the son of who could be next President as a part of our community. If Lamar will run for president in four years, well, that is anyone's guess.

Dole Looks to Win Republican Nomination

by Gabe Roth

Kansas Senator Bob Dole is the frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination. If he continues to win primaries, he could have the nomination for president wrapped-up by the end of April. However, the other two leading Republican candidates will not go down without a fight.

Pat Buchanan won a surprising victory in New Hampshire in the beginning of February. Although he has not done as well in the primaries since his upset win, Buchanan said he will continue to campaign all across the country until the Republican National Convention in July. Steve Forbes surprisingly won primaries in Delaware and Arizona and will continue to do what it takes to try to win the Republican nomination. Alan Keyes, Mory Taylor, and Bob Dornan may soon drop out due to a lack of support.

When Lamar Alexander dropped out of the race, he endorsed other candidates including Bob Dole. People who voted for Lamar will most likely defect to either Dole's or Steve Forbes' side because the other leading candidate, Buchanan, is so conservative.

(Note: Richard Lugar also dropped out of the race after doing poorly in the eight primaries held on March 5.)

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Patrick Wilson Library

EDITORIALS

Presidential Race Continues To Heat Up

by Gabe Roth

The presidential elections are a little over seven months away, and the race to see who will become (or remain) president is heating up. President Bill Clinton has already gotten the nod to represent the Democratic Party in the November election. No Independent candidate has come forward to make the election a three-way race, as Ross Perot did in 1992. So from July until early November, the race will focus on candidates from each of the two major political parties.

The whole United States is focused on seeing who will win the Republican Party's nomination. The field is now down to six candidates with the withdrawal of both Lamar Alexander and Richard Lugar. The six remaining candidates are all vying for the nomination to run against President Clinton. However, only three of those candidates, Pat Buchanan, Bob Dole, and Steve Forbes, have shown potential in representing the Republican Party, also called the GOP, in the November election.

To see who will win the Republican presidential nomination, elections called either primaries or caucuses are held for the GOP in each state, along with Puerto Rico. Pat Buchanan has had very strong showings in each of the primaries and caucuses so far, but his "closed-door" trading policies have made him look more like a "Looney Toon" than a serious threat to President Clinton's current job. Bob Dole had a very disappointing finish in New Hampshire, and his old age and lack of new ideas have been criticized greatly by the media. Steve Forbes, someone who will never run out of money, won the Delaware primary, but his "flat tax" has lost supporters. Time can only tell when the other three candidates will withdraw from the race.

With so many candidates, the GOP seems to be destroying itself. A headline on the op-ed page of the Tennessean the day after the New Hampshire primary read: "The real winner at N.H.--President Clinton." The article went on to say that because the Republicans have been fighting each other, they have done nothing but make the President look more attractive to undecided voters.

In the Junior School at MBA, it is clear that Lamar Alexander would have profited if our votes counted. Since he is out of the race, these votes come in vain. The votes for Richard Lugar, who picked up two percent of the vote, also would be in vain since he, too, dropped out. Lamar Alexander easily wins our mock election, though, with President Clinton and Bob Dole finishing second and third, respectively.

If elections were held today and you were old enough to vote, for whom would you cast your vote? (This poll was taken before Lamar Alexander and Richard Lugar dropped out of the race.)

Democrat:	Bill Clinton	18%
Rebulicans:	**Lamar Alexander**	58%
	Bob Dole	8%
	Pat Buchanan	4%
	Richard Lugar	2%
	Steve Forbes	2%
Other:	(many others)	4%
No One:		4%

Do "Test Days" Help the Junior School?

by Brent Burish

There is a new "test day" system in the Junior School established in the Second Semester, which has brought some changes to the lives of Junior School students at MBA. Teachers have had to change their schedules to give their tests on their assigned days. The idea was proposed since students were upset before Winter Break because of the numerous tests and quizzes given.

The old system of teachers signing up in the office to give tests had gone awry. There are so many different teachers for each subject with different lesson plans. That reason made it extremely hard for teachers to give tests on the day they wanted. Students could also suffer the wrath of up to five tests or quizzes in one day as well, especially right before Winter Break. Teachers have had to change their schedules to meet these "test days," causing some problems for teachers. "Test days" were started to help students. But have they really helped students?

Teachers can still give pop quizzes every day and many teachers feel compelled to give a quiz on their given test days. Also, in many circumstances, students have started learning new material before being tested on the material they learned before because the test days were earlier or later in the week. The opposite situation could occur where students have been tested on materials that they have not fully gone over in class. Because of the rush to meet test days by teachers, it appears to many students that homework has been increased, too.

Conflicts also came because of the snow days. Teachers lost a day of preparation yet still had to give their quizzes the same day they planned that week.

"Test days" have helped students have two or fewer tests or quizzes per day. However, when students have two tests or quizzes a day, homework is greatly increased.

So are test days really needed? We asked Junior School students if they liked having the "test days." The results were split: most Seventh Graders like them, and most Eighth Graders do not like them.

SEVENTH GRADE:
YES 85 % NO 10%
DON'T CARE 5%
EIGHTH GRADE:
YES 10% NO 90%

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LIVING

The "Freedom Forum"

by Gabe Roth

On Wednesday, February 28, I was privileged to go to the "Freedom Forum" at Middle Tennessee State University's Tucker Theater. Two people spoke of unique experiences tied together by a common theme of how making the right choices can change your life.

The first speaker, Mr. Pete McCoy, spoke about his experiences in Nazi Germany and dealing with air raids twice a day for over three years. Born in a bomb shelter, Mr. McCoy lived through World War II on the brink of starvation. He came to America with his mother when she married an American soldier. Mr. McCoy went on to talk about how great the freedom and opportunity offered in this country are.

The second speaker, Ms. Janice Johnson, spent five years in an Alabama State Corrections Facility for taking illegal drugs. Her parents were divorced when she was 13 years old. She tried to forget all her worries by starting to take drugs. By the end of high school, she was on drugs, frequently drank alcohol, was married, and gave birth to two children. Ms. Johnson was eventually arrested and sent to prison. When the woman in the cell next to her's hanged herself, Ms. Johnson realized it was time to make a *good* choice and change for the better. Mr. McCoy and she have been going around the country sharing their stories with thousands of teens, striving to make a difference in teens' lives.

Married...with Harwell

by Phil Cox and Kyle Mask

On August 17, 1996, Mr. Tom Harwell, a Seventh Grade teacher at MBA, will marry Ms. Clark Elam. They met as counselors during a summer trip to the Western United States for Ensworth students. They have been dating for three years.

Ms. Elam attends Tennessee State University and also works at the University School of Nashville. Mr. Harwell claims that she is 5'3" with red hair, but he will not reveal her weight. She is 24 years old and was born in Nashville. Mr. Harwell mentioned that she has a toe fungus, which is presently getting treated. Since Mr. Harwell is three years older than Ms. Elam, it seems that he likes younger women.

Mr. Harwell claims to have bought the engagement ring for 25 cents in a gumball machine in front of a grocery store. On a teacher's salary at MBA, this statement is probably true. He would not give us the details, but he proposed to her at his house.

From all of us at school, we wish you a long, happy marriage, Mr. Harwell.

Why Dog Is MBA Mascot

by Will Hines and Patrick Carnell

The Arkansas Hog. The Duke Blue Devil. The MBA Dog? Upon investigation, we discovered the origins of the MBA mascot. The whole dog idea originated in 1949, when "Judge," a black Cocker Spaniel, represented the MBA sports teams. Howard Allen, the football coach and active headmaster owned "Judge," and was proud to display him at all athletic events.

By popular demand, all mascots have been dogs. In the past, MBA has owned a mascot suit, but mysteriously, it was lost. After this incident, the suits have always been rented.

We caught up with the present "Big Red Dog," MBA Senior John Lyell. He told us he enjoyed being out mascot. Contrary to popular belief, John does not chase cats to practice his routine, but he does occasionally practice with the cheerleaders. We also asked him which rising Senior he would pick to carry on the tradition of the dog. He told us he would recommend John Buchanan and Chad Grief.

After writing this article, we are left with the age-old question: "Does the dog bite?"

Source: MBA Alumni & Development

Headmaster and Head Football Coach Howard Allen (left) poses with fooball players and his pet dog "Judge"(lower right-hand corner), the first known MBA mascot.

ENTERTAINMENT

Dear Tay,

I have something to report to you that may be quite disturbing to your readers. I know it was to me. Recently while waiting for my mom to pick me up after school, I was rambling around the Junior School when I happened to pass by Mr. Corzine's room. Lo and behold there was a congregation of all the Junior School English Teachers. I thought this was completely normal until I heard an uproar and a rumble of laughter booming from the room. I decided to stand by the door and listen to see what was so funny. First, I heard Mr. Corzine speak out, "I can't believe that these kids buy into the whole diagraming fiasco. Do they really think that they will use this in their lives and that we don't just make it up as we go along?"

"I know what you mean," boasted Mrs. Steele. "They actually believe that I don't make up the rule book and that all of that parsing stuff is real. My gosh, I don't think I have taught the same two years in a row."

"I think I have convinced them that there is more to *Redwall* than just a bunch of talking rats," cried out Mr. Calhoun.

"Well, what I love is that they think that just because we are adults, we know more about grammar and literature than they do," laughed Mrs. Bourland.

Just then, I heard my mother's car drive up and I bolted out the door.

What I want to know is, what do you think I should do about this, I mean should I let everyone know about this or keep quiet for fear of teacher revenge?

Your Espionage Guru,
Disturbed Student

Dear DS,

We all knew what you are talking about was going on; we just needed someone like you to uncover it. What you need to do is tell everyone you know about it, your mom, your dad, your cat, etc. After doing this I would recommend that you lie low and stay away from the MBA English department. But most importantly, don't ask any questions in your English and Grammar classes. The teachers will be touchy so zip your lip. Thanks for the inside info.

Your Free Psycologist,
Big Tay

Horoscopes by the Real Experts....KIND OF

by Matthew McIntosh and Ben Hickerson

Aquarius: Jan. 20-Feb. 18. You will soon break from a group of friends leading you in the wrong direction. Love: Curiosity will lead you to the wrong love. Lucky numbers: 5, 17.

Pisces: Feb. 19-Mar. 20. You will soon be hurt by something said by a loved one. Love: Rely on your heart to find your love. Lucky numbers: 14, 3.

Aries: Mar. 21-Apr. 19. Be careful, for your energy will soon lead you to trouble. Love: You have found your true love, but may not know it yet. Lucky numbers: 69, 47.

Taurus: Apr. 20-May 20. Do not try to control everything; learn to let go. Love: It will take time to get over your last love. Lucky numbers: 45, 7.

Gemini: May 21-June 20. Your quick moving lips will soon lead you to trouble. Love: Your energy will lead you into the arms of a true love. Lucky numbers: 19, 4.

Cancer: June 21-July 22. You will soon take a trip on which you will become homesick. Love: Your array of emotions will bring you closer to the one you have been thinking of. Lucky numbers: 2, 36.

Leo: July 23-Aug. 22. Beware for behind your proud barrier lurks danger. Love: Your good personality makes you an easy candidate for love. Lucky numbers: 8, 10.

Virgo: Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Your realistic point of view will help you through life. Love: Your shyness will keep you from meeting who you were meant for. Lucky numbers: 74, 1.

Libra: Sept. 23-Oct. 21. You are fun to be around because of your good moods. Love: Your sympathy toward others will make you look good in a woman's eyes. Lucky numbers: 90, 43.

Scorpio: Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Your secrets will soon lead your friends away. Love: If you show true feelings all will work out with a loved one. Lucky number: 6, 84.

Sagittarius: Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Your generosity make you new friends. Love: Your stored energy will soon turn away the one you love. Lucky numbers: 9, 59.

Capricorn: Dec. 22-Jan. 19. Your cautions will lead you away from danger. Love: You will be too caught up in your ambitions to think about love. Lucky numbers: 33, 24.

"Foo Fighters" CD--A Hit

Former "Nirvana" drummer Dave Grohl adds to the band's good work on their first album

by Sumeet Vaikunth

I sat down and listened to the Foo Fighters self-titled debut CD. This CD is great for a first album. Last issue, two people did a music review on *Throwing Copper,* the*second* album of "Live." Being a first album, this CD is incredibel.

The first three songs have been made into videos already. The first song, "This is a Call," was the song that got Foo Fighters recognition, but really most of the album showcased Dave Grohl, previously the drummer of Nirvana. Grohl plays almost all the instruments on almost all of the 12 songs on the 44 minute album. The second song, "I'll Stick Around," is the best song on the album. "Big Me" is the third song that has a video. It is a short, soft song.

The CD is pretty good overall but takes a plunge in quality from the first half of the album to the second half. The last songs are static-filled, squirming songs with no real solid tune to them. "X-Static," the tenth track, has Grohl screaming. The screaming is muffled by static so you are not able to comprehend what he is saying. The last song is not that good, but it is the best of the last five songs on the album. Judging the album on the whole, I would say it is worth buying.

SPORTS

Riflery Team Enjoying Life at the Top

by Andrew Thomison

The Varsity air rifle shooters, while still a young team, are already showing much promise. All five of them, Andrew Esterday, a Freshman, Andy Gaither, an Eighth Grader, David Gregory, a Senior, Brad Mayo, a Freshman, and Andrew Thomison, an Eighth Grader, have improved much from last year. They have done well in every match they entered. Also, these shooters have won almost all of the "fax matches" in which they competed. These matches are competitions where the shooting results are faxed to another team across the country that also shot a match.

There are three separate groups of rifles that are shot by the MBA Riflery Team. The smallest and lightest of these rifles is the Daisy BB gun. All new shooters are started on this gun, where the BBs are shot from five meters away from the targets. The targets have ten bulls (bull's eyes surrounded by nine rings). In competition four positions, lying down (prone), sitting, kneeling, and standing, are shot with 100 points per round. The next stage is the air rifle which uses pellets shot with compressed air. The targets are ten meters from the shooter. The bull is four and a half centimeters wide with a bull's eye the size of a pin-point. When a shooter advances to the precision air rifle, he also has the option of joining the small bore rifle team. These rifles are .22 caliber. The targets are the same as the air rifle's, but are shot from 50 feet away. This competition is the most difficult because the distance to the target is so great.

There are certain scores a shooter should achieve to be competitive. All four positions have a maximum score of 100 points with 10 different shots each having a maximum score of 10 points. Standing is the hardest position, and even the best shooters rarely get above 90 points. Getting above 85 points will usually beat all other standing scores in the match. In kneeling, a score of 90 or above is considered good. Sitting was taken out of most competitions because many shooters were making perfect scores. A high 90 is a good score for sitting if it is in the competition. Prone is the easiest position, and therefore, scores are usually the highest in this event.

In coming years, MBA will likely have one of its strongest teams ever. The huge amount of talent combined with the leadership and skill of this team will no doubt bring amazing results for years to come.

Basketball Team Upended in HVAC Tourney

by Brad McDowell

Our second place finish behind FRA during the regualr season gave us a bye in the first round of the tournament. The bye meant that we would only have to win one game to earn a spot in the finals. Our first game was against the third-seeded Brentwood Middle School. BMS proved to be more than what we had bargained for. At one point in the fourth quarter, the score stood 30 to 30. The outcome was in question for most of the quarter, but we took a sudden run to take the lead for good. In desperation, Brentwood Middle spent most of their year-ending energy trying to foul us and stop the clock. I sat staring at Coach Wims waiting for him to point a finger at me and say, "Brad, get Bryan." However, the only movements I saw Coach Wims make during this time were a few paces and his positioning into the "coach's squat." I thought, "Just as well," for though I desired entry into the game, I was satisfied with dressing-out. We ended up winning the game by 10 and were destined to battle with our long-time rivals, FRA.

FRA's record had been flawless, and they had won most of their games by about 20 points. However, we were determined to show them how to lose in this final game of the season. Our game plan was simple: get the ball on defense and hold the ball on offense. We knew that we were the last team that FRA wanted to play in the finals and wanted to take advantage of that. At the end of the first half, we walked enthusiastically into the locker room as the score stood FRA: 9, MBA: 6. We came out in the second half and took charge. With one minute to play, I looked up at the scoreboard and saw equal scores of 15. We had the momentum, the enthusiasm, and the crowd. We had nothing to lose. We had the confidence. However, FRA bucketed three heart-breaking free throws to give our rivals their final victory of the season, 18 to 15.

Afterward, the "All-Tournament Team" was announced. Mason Guiffre, Eric Larence, and Barton Simmons represented MBA on the team. As I walked into the locker room after the game, I saw people hitting doors, talking under their breathe, and kicking lockers. I thought to myself, "Hey guys, what's there to be mad about? We are the team that scared FRA,the team that worked the hardest. We are the team that wanted it more, the team that didn't lose because we had nothing to lose." I can say that, because I was there. I experienced it.

I recall turning to Taylor Sutherland towards the end of the final game. The score was even. "I could smash my head through a glass window right now and wouldn't even feel it," I said, because I was so pumped. I felt it. Even though we lost, I will never forget that feeling, and I know every one on that bench, in body or spirit, felt it too. We felt what it was like to put all of your heart into something and desire it beyond understanding. That is why this truly was a great team, a team to remember.

Tennis Season Starting Soon

by Will Hines

This tennis season is sure to be a hit. Mr. Bailey, the Microbe Tennis coach, is ready to"serve up" a great season. Since tryouts are here, strings are tightening and everyone is once again "swinging" into the habit of playing tennis.

Compared to the various other spring activities, tennis is more low key. With sports like baseball ahead, Mr. Bailey is hoping that students will begin to "regrip" the idea of this fast-paced sport. This year the list of applicants is short, yet explosive. This year's line-up will be exceptionally strong. They look to do well in both singles and doubles matches since they will learn to work with each other. When the final cuts are made, the team will be ready to start playing tennis with the hope of capturing the coveted HVAC tournament trophy.

Overall, the start of the tennis season is looking sharp. Mr. Bailey hopes to get students off the "'Net" and let them start hitting over one. He also plans to make a "racquet" in '96 as the pre-season favorite to win the HVAC.

Swami J's Psycho Predictions

by James Crenshaw and Josh Eaves

Hello, kiddies, gather round and hear what we have to say. The future is a dangerous place, a place that can turn a man insane. The following is a list of all the things to come for this year. So pull up a chair, and beware, for it is time to meet your FUTURE!

April 3: "Disco Fever" will sweep the nation, causing polyester and K-Tell records stock to soar. So stock up on your Bee-Gees cassettes and 8-track players and get down with your bad selves.

April 11: Mr. Demong will realize that DOS based computers are supreme, flip out, and take Mr. Compton hostage for 36 hours in the second stall in Wallace Hall's bathroom.

May 3: Woolworth's, in cooperation with the BBK ("Bring Back Kruschev"), will release a new line of Chia Commies. These adorable clay figures will sport clay hats: you grow the fur.

June 27: Michael Jackson's face will melt when he takes a vacation to the Caribbean. He will license the formula as Michael's Magic Mud and make millions.

July 11: Dr. Steven Hawkins will replace Jay Leno on the Tonight Show. Ratings will soar to new heights, breaking all previous records.

September 1:The rapper formerly known as 2-Pac will mysteriously change his name to 1-Pac.

October 29: Boy George will bust a move when he makes his comeback as a hip hoppin' G-money gangsta rapper.

Well, hope it wasn't too scary for you. And if none of these predictions come true, blame society.

Top Ten Rejected New Names for the Oilers

by Johnny Sisk

From the home office in Nashville, Tennessee

10. The Graceland Geetars
9. The Minnie Pearls
8. The Shoney's Bears' Skins
7. Those Pesky Blood-Sucking Ticks
6. With Bud Adams' hair they just might keep the "Oilers"
5. Bredesen and the Blowfish
4. The Smokies...and the Bandits
3. Them Good Ol' Country Sissy Boys
2. The Wonderful Waterbeds--and Futons
1. The Bass Masters

Top Ten Things Under Bridge Along West End

by Nate Rupert and Josh Eaves

From the home office in Nashville, TN

10. Optimus Prime
9. The Second Gunman
8. Mr. Small's beard
7. The Holy Hand Grenade
6. The Bloody Glove
5. The Dead Sea Scrolls
4. An abandoned Smurf warrior village
3. Elvis Presley & Jimmy Hoffa playing tiddlywinks
2. The Colonel's Secret Recipe
1. One word: Spam

Editor's Note:

"Letters to the Editor" is not appearing in this issue because of a lack of written responses about last issue from the students. It was created to voice the opinions of the readers, and the best way to voice your opinions is by writing to us. So that the staff can learn what to do to improve the paper, I encourage you to write a letter, with your name on it, and give it to Mrs. Bourland or myself. A "Letters to the Editor" column will most likely appear in next issue.

Also in next issue, I will be reporting about the trip that Jon Hampton, Lee Hampton, Joe Montgomery, and I will have taken to New York to learn about jounalism.

May 9--Grandparents Day